

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment prior to examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

This amendment is in response to the Election/Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action dated June 26, 2003.

In the Office Action, a restriction requirement is set forth between the three groups of claims listed on page 2 of the Office Action. In response to this Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect the Group III claims 1-26, drawn to a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device. By the present amendment, claims 26-30 have been replaced by claims 31-34, respectively, which are substantially the same as claims 26-30, except for clarifying modifications. In addition, new claims 35-52 are added which are directed to the elected Group III.

In the event of the election of Group III, the Office Action contains a Species Requirement on page 4 listing Species III A, as set forth in claims 26 and 27, and a Species III B to which the pending claims 28-30 are readable thereon. In response to this Election of Species Requirement, Applicants hereby elect Species III A, noting that claims 31, 32, and 36-52 are readable thereon. The remaining claims 33-35 are readable on Species III B.

In light of this election, examination of claims 31, 32, and 36-52 as being directed to the elected Group III and the elected Species III B is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 843.41106X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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